

## Message Text

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64/53

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 SY-05 AID-05 SSO-00 NSCE-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /069 W

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O P 071159Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9660

INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU HI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SAIGON PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L PHNOM PENH 4157

C O R R E C T E C C O P Y (TO TEXTS NBRD PARA FOUR)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, CB

SUBJECT: MARCH 7, THE 66TH DAY OF THE OFFENSIVE

REF: PHNOM PENH 4092

1. SUMMARY. FANK EVACUATED ITS LAST POSITION ON THE MEKONG RIVER BELOW NEAK LUONG. ROCKETS AND 105MM HOWITZER SHELLS CONTINUED TO FALL ON POCHENTONG AIRFIELD. THE OPERATION DESIGNED TO PUSH THE KC GUNNERS OUT OF RANGE HAS MADE LITTLE PROGRESS THUS FAR. A FRIENDLY POSITION FELL NEAR LOVEK, AND FANK FORCES THEN TOOK IT BACK, REPORTEDLY INFLECTING HEAVY CASUALTIES IN THE PROCESS. THE ROAD FROM ROUTE 5 INTO THE 7TH DIVISION AREA REMAINS CUT, BUT FANK HAS CUT OFF THE SOUTHWARD MOVEMENT OF THE ENEMY. END SUMMARY.

2. FANK'S ONE REMAINING POSITION ON THE LOWER MEKONG(SIERRA TWO) WAS EVACUATED EARLY MARCH 7. KHMER NAVY SHIPS TOOK OUT ABOUT 1,000 TROOPS AND ONE 105MM HOWITZER. FANK CLAIMS TO HAVE SPIKED THE REMAINING THREE HOWITZERS BEFORE DEPARTURE AS WELL AS DESTROYING SOME AMMUNITION THAT COULD NOT BE CARRIED

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OUT. AMMUNITION LOSSES ARE UNKNOWN, BUT THE POSITION HAD

JUST BEEN RESUPPLIED THE NIGHT BEFORE (REFTEL). TEN MILITARY WERE REPORTED KILLED AND OVER 30 WOUNDED IN THE MOVEMENT. COMMENT: THE MOVEMENT FREES THESE FORCES TO STABILIZE THE SITUATION AT BANAM-NEAK LUONG AND POSSIBLY FOR USE TO MOVE UP ROUTE 1 TOWARDS PHNOM PENH. END COMMENT.

3. EARLY MARCH 7, SIX 107MM ROCKETS WERE FIRED AT PHNOM PENH, THREE LANDING IN THE TONLE SAP RIVER, THREE IN THE NORTHEAST PART OF THE CITY, NEAR THE CENTRAL POST OFFICE. THREE MORE ROCKETS LANDED IN A NORTHWEST RESIDENTIAL SECTOR MARCH 7. AT POCHENTONG, SIX MORE 105MM SHELLS LANDED ON THE AIRFIELD MARCH 6 IN ADDITION TO THOSE REPORTED REFTEL. THUS FAR MARCH 7, THE PACE HAS SLACKENED SLIGHTLY WITH THIRTEEN 107MM ROCKETS AND EIGHT 105MM SHELLS LANDING ON OR AROUND POCHENTONG. THE AIRLIFT CONTINUES. THE FANK OPERATION NORTH OF ROUTE 4 DESIGNED TO PUSH BACK THE KC FORCES DOING THE SHELLING IS IN ITS SECOND DAY, BUT HAS MADE NEGLIGIBLE PROGRESS.

4. NORTHWEST OF PHNOM PENH, MORE REINFORCEMENTS HAVE BEEN SENT IN THE WAKE OF THE KC CUTTING ROUTE 51 WHICH RUNS WEST FROM ROUTE 5 THROUGH THE 7TH DIVISION AREA. FANK REPORTS CUTTING OFF THE KC MOVEMENT SOUTHWARD AND KILLING ABOUT 50 COMMUNIST SOLDIERS. HOWEVER, ROUTE 51 REMAINS CUT AND THE SITUATION SOMEWHAT UNCERTAIN. FURTHER NORTH AT LOVEK, FRIENDLY FORCES LOST A POSITION ON THE SOUTHWEST PERIMETER BUT RETOOK IT LATE MARCH 7. THEY TOO REPORT SIGNIFICANT ENEMY CASUALTIES, ABOUT 100 KC KILLED AND ASSORTED WEAPONS SEIZED.  
DEAN

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** COMBAT OPERATIONS, MILITARY EQUIPMENT LOSSES, MILITARY OCCUPIED AREAS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 07 MAR 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975PHNOM04157  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750081-0317  
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**Line Count:** 91  
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**Office:** ACTION EA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 75 PHNOM PENH 4092  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 08 JUL 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <08 JUL 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <09 JUL 2003 by GolinoFR>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** MARCH 7, THE 66TH DAY OF THE OFFENSIVE  
**TAGS:** MOPS, CB  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006